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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,
TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2004

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Bush to ATC: We are grateful for Turkey's friendship -
Milliyet
NSC: Cyprus responsibility is the government's - Aksam
PM Erdogan: We must do our part for Cyprus solution -
Turkiye
Athens ups pressure on Greek Cypriots for 'Yes' -Milliyet
Es-Sadr the new nuisance for US - Milliyet
Shiites revolt against US - Turkiye
US orders arrest of es-Sadr - Hurriyet
Bremer: Es-Sadr a bandit - Sabah
US troops besiege Sunni Fallujah - Aksam
'Scapegoat' Rice may leave post - Sabah
Sharon: Arafat deserves death - Milliyet

OPINION MAKERS

Denktas: Annan Plan no protection for Turks - Zaman
Denktas: Referenda must be postponed - Cumhuriyet
Denktas: UN Plan a plot against Turkey - Radikal
Denktas launches a 'No' campaign - Yeni Safak
Talat: 'No' will bring disaster - Yeni Safak
US fighting on two fronts in Iraq - Cumhuriyet
US fans the fire in Iraq - Radikal
Shiites, US troops clash: 59 killed - Zaman
Shiite resistance spreading - Yeni Safak
US may delay transfer of authority in Iraq - Cumhuriyet
Sharon to US: Israel defending itself, just like US - Zaman

BRIEFING

Cyprus: A statement issued by Turkey's National Security Council (NSC) after a special Cyprus meeting on Monday noted the necessity of making the Turkish derogations in the UN-sponsored peace plan part of EU primary law, and urged the government to follow closely the implementation of guarantees given to the Turkish side. The statement said that the responsibility for avoiding future problems regarding bi-zonality, Turkey's status as a guarantor power and the Turkish military presence in Cyprus falls on the Government. "Cumhuriyet" interpreted the statement as the NSC declining to accept responsibility for the Government's Cyprus policy. If the Annan Plan is accepted at the April 24 referenda, Ankara will ask EU members to endorse the plan in their national parliaments. Meanwhile, Turkish Cypriot leader Denktas said in an address to the Bursa Bar Association on Monday that the Annan Plan would lead to a scenario in which Turkey would be partitioned. 'If the UN plan is accepted, the EU will delay Turkey's accession to get even more concessions,' Denktas claimed. Denktas stressed that under the plan, the 'TRNC' will be eliminated within 10-15 years. However, 'TRNC Prime Minister' Talat said that the UN blueprint had been clarified in Switzerland, and added that approving the plan would save the Turkish Cypriots and Turkey from big problems. Prime Minister Erdogan said at a cabinet meeting yesterday that the latest Annan Plan was the 'last chance' for Turks. "Hurriyet" claims that Cypriot leaders Denktas and Papadopoulos have made a secret deal to postpone the referenda currently scheduled for April 24.

President Bush visit to Turkey: Preparation has started for

President Bush's upcoming visit to Turkey for the June NATO Summit in Istanbul. Bush will arrive in Ankara June 26 and will be accompanied by 1,000 other people. President Bush will hold meetings with Turkey's leaders the following day, before proceeding to Istanbul to attend the NATO Summit June 28-29. He will depart Turkey on June 29. Turkey will be taking tight security measures for the Bush visit, dailies report, and the NATO Summit will cost Turkey an estimated TL33 trillion.

General Jumper visits Ankara: US Air Force Commander General John Jumper met with his Turkish counterpart, General Ibrahim Firtina, in Ankara on Monday. General Jumper discussed the US Greater Middle East initiative and the use of American bases in Turkey for operations in the Middle East, according to press reports.

Crackdown on DHKP-C: Dailies say that 20 of the 63 DHKP-C members detained in Turkey in a coordinated operation with European countries were senior officials of the terrorist organization. Papers criticize Belgium for sheltering DHKP-C terrorists, including the organization's leader, Dursun Karatas. DHKP-C member Fehriye Erdal, the main suspect in the murder of Turkish industrialist Ozdemir Sabanci, was released after being briefly detained by Belgian authorities last week. Sabanci family lawyers, however, say that a legal procedure will soon be underway to bring Erdal to justice for the murder.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq

"Invasion of Iraq takes the world backwards 100 years" Hakan Celik argued in the mass appeal-sensational Posta (4/6): "It is the anniversary of Iraq's invasion, yet after more than a year there is zero gain with regard to stability. Not only Iraq, but the whole Middle East region has fallen into a spiral of terrorism. This situation can be interpreted as the world being sent backwards for 100 years. . All of the pretexts for invasion of Iraq have proven to be false. However, the unstable atmosphere helped terrorist organizations a great deal in carrying out their bloody actions in the name of vengeance. The terrorists are using religious motives to justify their actions, and the whole process is leading to a war between religions. . Recent clashes between American troops and the Shiites pose a serious threat for the future of Iraq. President Bush might sincerely regret the invasion someday, but the fact of the matter is that the withdrawal of American troops from Iraq would not solve anything at this point. The chaos in Iraq is growing by the day."

"Bringing a new order to the Middle East" Murat Yetkin observed in the liberal-intellectual Radikal (4/6): "Paul Bremer is facing a serious dilemma. Attacks against American forces require a proper response to enforce US authority, but the retaliation might aggravate Shiite groups even more. The real conflict in the Middle East is about the Palestine-Israel problem, and there are discouraging signs on that issue as well. The assassination of the Hamas leader and growing tension in the region have further diminished hopes for a solution. Washington, on the other hand, is working on a big project for the Middle East with ambitious goals such as bringing democracy to the Islamic world. The masterminds of the GME initiative seem to miss a very important point: Turkey is the only Muslim country with a working liberal economy and a democracy. Turkey's success stems from the fact that Turkey managed to separate the state from religion in its ruling structure. . The Bush administration fails to realize the crucial difference that secularism can make, or perhaps does not want to emphasize this policy line in order not to upset pro-American dictatorships in the region."

"Iraq Dead End" Zeynep Atikkan noted in the sensational-mass appeal Aksam (4/6): "There is no solution when a mistake has been made. Developments in Iraq are proof of this fact. The US has come face to face with a civil war in light of the most recent Shiite rebellion. Meanwhile the US still plans to turn over authority to the Iraqis on June 30. No one pays much attention anymore to US promises to bring peace to Iraq and the Middle East. After the bloody uprising started in Basra and Baghdat, two US senators, Richard Lugar and Joe Biden, predicted a civil war in Iraq and noted the difficulty of transferring the administration to the Iraqis in these circumstances. The chaos grows in Iraq with every passing day. It will be difficult for President Bush to portray himself as a successful war leader during the current election campaign. Even the Republicans prefer to keep quiet when the Iraq issue is mentioned in the US. As

these latest developments demonstrate, it is no longer possible to defend this war."

EDELMAN